

REMARKS

Claims 1-20, as amended, remain in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. The claims have been amended to correct informalities and to more clearly define the scope of protection sought by the present application. In particular, claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite that a set of conference servers is identified and that an internet protocol address and a path delay time for each one of the identified conference servers are communicated to all of the identified conference servers in the set of conference servers to establish a plurality of collaborative conference servers. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification and claims as originally filed and in particular in claims 8 and 17. As these amendments do not introduce any new matter into the above identified application, their entry at this time is warranted.

Claims 10-19 were objected to because of certain informalities as stated in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. It was asserted that "computer readable medium" should be changed to "computer readable storage medium". Applicants notes that the claims have been amended in accordance with this suggestion.

Claims 1-7, 9-16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,671,262 to Kung et al. ("Kung") for the reasons given in paragraphs 6-17 of the Office Action. It was asserted that Kung discloses all of the recitations of those claims. Applicants assert that this rejection has been overcome for the reasons that follow.

Kung is directed to new architectures broadband communication systems that provide for combining internet protocol packet streams without increasing bandwidth and for the dynamic assignment of conference call resources. For conference calls, these architectures include a number of call servers and a number of call managers to connection a plurality of parties. Conversely, the present invention as currently recited in claims 1, 10 and 20, the only independent claims, is directed to systems and methods that include a plurality of collaborating servers to which have been communicated the internet protocol addresses and path delay times for all collaborating servers. The servers are in direct communication with conference participants and use the communicated information to route communication session data among the servers without the use of a centralized server. There is no teaching or suggestion in Kung

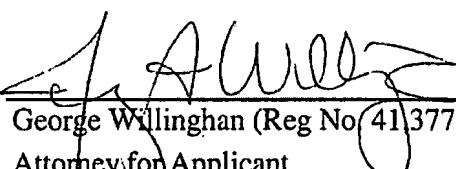
regarding the communication of internet protocol addresses and path delay times for all servers to each server. The dependent claims contain additional recitations that further define the present invention over Krug. Therefore, Applicants assert that the present rejection has been overcome and should be removed.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement that claims 8 and 17 are allowable.

Applicants assert that all claims are now in condition for allowance, early notification of which is respectfully requested. As the present amendments do not introduce any new claims above the original number of filed claims, no fees are believed due for the submission of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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